

Cindy Rosenthal, Garden Court (49th and Larchwood)

Born: Mt Vernon, NY (near Bronx)

Father: getting MA at Purdue, born near mother's parents' house

Grew up in Levittown, went to Penn State, oldest of several siblings

Father: PhD in Chem, worked for what is now Dow

Mother: Homemaker, then elementary school/special ed teacher

Grandparents in NYC, visited city often, appreciation for urbanity and heterogeneity

Went to museums in Phl, favorite restaurant on Broad Street

Got interested in political activism at Penn State (labor left family, liberal parents)

Worked as attorney for community, JD at Temple, 40+ years of work

Had friends from PSU at 49th and Chester, joined them after college, taught classes on divorce, women's rights and family situations for local women

Legal work with government, provided advocacy and free civil legal services for very low income people medical issues and general legal concerns for lower-income communities

Moved to West Philadelphia from Levittown in 1971, bought house with Art Read (spouse) in 1981 after Art moves from Staten Island (met professionally)

Bought house due to neighborhood, affordability, and backyard, previously in Powelton

Stable block, London Planes, historically African-American neighborhood, now aging

Minister down the block, close to Sonny Hill League, few white families on the block (less than four), neighborhood welcoming, occasional crime and violence

Sons born in mid 80s, went to Montessori at Holy Apostles, Powel, Masterman -> Yale and Amherst, then med school (gi) at NW_> UM, Ann Arbor, current practice there; MA at

University of Louisville and public school teacher in Louisville

Shared sense of values and trust in community.

Members of Garden Court, Hanson St. Pool, HSAs, Mishkan Shalom (in GJCC)

No significant community anchors due to overwhelmingly residential land use

Equal amount of trees, more decorative gardens and fruit (previously cultivated ivy on block)

More bicycles, equal amount of cars, more families (neighborhood now has lower median age)

Eventual change in demographics, neighborhood gets much whiter, more affluent, loss of cultural diversity, still welcoming pleasant neighborhood but without the richness of different experiences

Overall, happy in West Philadelphia, could live elsewhere but chose not to because of connectivity and satisfaction with quality and way of life.